

*Dear parent/guardian,*

*Vermont South Special School is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Vermont South Special School's voluntary financial contributions for 2026*

*Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. We want to thank you for all your support, whether that is through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.*

*This support has enabled our school to offer a wide range of excursions and incursions, provide special curriculum experiences, enhance digital learning opportunities, and upgrade our arts centre.*

*Vermont South Special School is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth) with the result that any donations made by you will be tax deductible. To be tax deductible, your donation needs to be made voluntarily. We have suggested an amount to be contributed under "Curriculum Contributions" and "Other Contributions" below, but please feel free to contribute an alternative amount. Amounts paid under "Extra-Curricular Items and Activities" are not donations and are not tax deductible.*

*For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Jane Henderson*

*Principal*

<b>Curriculum Contributions – suggested tax-deductible contributions for items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<i>Classroom consumables, materials &amp; equipment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Art – paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper etc.</li> <li>- Technology – gardening tool, plants etc.</li> <li>- Food tech – food ingredients such as flour, butter etc.</li> <li>- Mathematics – numeracy blocks etc.</li> <li>- Sports – equipment</li> </ul>	\$200
<i>Online Subscriptions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Online Library subscription</li> <li>- ClassFocu</li> </ul>	\$80
<i>Communication tools –assistive technology devices, displays</i>	\$70
<i>Printing and photocopying of learning materials</i>	\$50
<i>Other Costs</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bus and transport</li> <li>- Excursions and incursions</li> </ul>	\$100
<b>Total tax-deductible Curriculum Contributions</b>	<b>\$500</b>

<b>Other Contributions – suggested tax-deductible contributions for non-curriculum items and activities</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<i>Student wellbeing programs</i>	\$100
<i>First aid and hygiene equipment</i>	\$50
<i>School grounds maintenance and improvements</i>	\$50
<b>Total tax-deductible Other Contributions</b>	<b>\$200</b>

### Extra-Curricular Items and Activities – provided on a user-pays basis

Vermont South Special School offers a range of optional items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides to deliver the Curriculum.

*The cost of extra-curricular items and activities will be advised throughout the year.*

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Amount
School Photos	TBC
BlackWood Camp (Approximately)	\$200
Urban Camp (Approximately)	\$400
Excursions to be scheduled (Approximately)	\$50

### Financial Support for Families

Vermont South Special School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Payment plans for Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact:

Susan Xie

Ph: **03 9802 8199** | Email: [vermont.south.ss@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:vermont.south.ss@education.vic.gov.au)

### Total

Category	Total recommended amount
Total tax-deductible contributions	\$700
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities (Camp on user pays basis)	\$250-450

**Payment methods**

*Payment methods will be provided in 2026*

**Refund/ Credit Policy**

- *All Camps, Excursions and Incursions are fully self-funded and are therefore on a user-pays basis.*
- *On site activities, incursions and excursions will not be refunded or credited in the case of absence or withdrawal.*
- *Camps – In the case of illness or withdrawal there may be chance of a partial credit where a camp provider is willing to refund the camp cost for your child. A written statement from a parent is necessary with a bona fide reason. A request of a supporting medical certificate will be required.*
- *Tax Deductible Donations are unable to be refunded once an office tax-deductible receipt has been issued.*
- *To discuss further please email [vermont.south.ss@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:vermont.south.ss@education.vic.gov.au) or phone the school on 03 9802 8199*

# PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

## ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



### FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



### PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

#### Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

#### Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

#### Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



### FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



### SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.